succession. It would be enough if a Marava member be nominated to the Legislative Council once in ten years and to the Assembly once in six years. But in the case of the latter, the nomination once made should be continued for two or more consecutive years.

The Maravas were by hereditary instincts unruly and troublesome. The only way to bring them to a sense of decency and self-respect was by spread of education. The Dewan had remarked in his address to the previous session of the Assembly that compulsory primary education alone would ameliorate the condition of the backward classes. Those remarks applied more to the Marava community than any other and it would be well to introduce such compulsory education among Maravas.

In conclusion, the member prayed that his suggestions should be given due consideration and all the measures within the power of the Government should be adopted for the elevation of the community.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Subbiah Tevar, I shall have the question of half-fee concessions to Maravas re-examined. I can assure you that the Government are in complete sympathy with you in your wishes to see the Marava community taking more readily to education.

In regard to members of your community who are now qualified for Government service, I shall ask all Heads of Departments to see whether it is possible to provide for one or two of them.

MEMBER : When they applied to the Heads of Departments, they were told that their claims would be considered when vacancies occurred. It is now full three years. Still they have not been able to get a place in Government service.

DEWAN : I hope they will have better luck this time.

MEMBER : Thank you, Sir.

177. Needs of the Muslims.

MR. S. AHAMAD PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Attingal*) : said that the Muslim community was not at all an unimportant one; and in view to their welfare and advancement, urged that they should be allowed to return at least two members to the Legislative Council.

Secondly, the Muslims had not got an adequate or fair representation in the public service. There were many qualified men in the community, but they were not given sufficient encouragement. The Government should therefore devote greater attention to the freer entertainment of Muslims in the public service.

Lastly, he thanked the Government for the concessions granted to the Muslims in the matter of education. But in view of the further spread of education, compulsory education should be introduced in the community. The *Koran* teachers should be given grants-in-aid just like other teachers in grant-in-aid schools.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Ahamad Pillai, all your requests will be very carefully considered.

178. Needs of the Muslims.

MR. VAVA KUNJU LEBBA (*Member, Municipal Council, Kayankulam*) said that there was no necessity for keeping copies of the Holy *Koran* in courts. There were already a circular and a Proclamation in force that those who had objection to swear by their holy books should not be compelled to do so. The Mahomedans were not swearing by the *Koran* and they did not like other religionists touching the book. Copies of the Holy *Koran* should therefore be removed from courts.

The Mahomedan women were following the *gosha* system and should therefore be exempted from appearing in courts and allowed to depute their vakils instead. In cases where depositions had to be taken from them, they should be obtained through commissions appointed for the purpose.

Friday was as important to the Mahomedans as Sunday was to the Christians. In order that they might offer prayers at their mosques, every Friday should be declared a public holiday for the Mahomedans who should be exempted also from appearing in courts on that day. The two hours' leave on that day already granted by the Government was not sufficient.

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DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Vava Kunju Lebba, in regard to the Holy *Koran*, I talked the matter over with several Mahomedan gentelmen who once waited on me and they agreed to this arrangement : they thought it perfectly unobjectionable that the *Koran* should be kept locked up in a box of which the Judge or the Magistrate will keep the key ; and the box will be brought only if and when it is needed.

In regard to the exemption of Mahomedan women from attendance in courts, there is a provision already in Section 97 of the Civil Procedure Code. It says, "Women, who according to the customs and manners of the country, ought not to be compelled to appear in public, shall be exempted from personal appearance in courts."

As regards the question of totally exempting Mahomedans from attending courts on Friday, I think you will find that the observance all over India where there are even more Mahomedans than in Travancore, is that they get let off for a certain number of hours in the middle of the day; and I am quite prepared to see that it is strictly carried out here. I think that is all you want. I will ascertain what exactly the time is and we shall apply to Travancore what is in force, say in Northern India, if that would suit you. If it does not suit, you can come up again next year.

179. Needs of the Muslims.

MR. P. S. MUHAMMAD (*Member, Municipal Council, Alleppey*) said that the Government should have a more sympathetic attitude towards the Muslims, who were backward in education, for some time to come. In spite of the best efforts of the Government and Muslim leaders, the Muslims in many parts of the State had not taken a keen interest in education. In such places, more departmental schools should be opened. The member was aware that the policy of the Government was not to increase the number of departmental schools. But it could not be expected that the inhabitants of the places above referred to would come forward to open private schools and put up buildings for the same.

In every school in which there were at least 15 Muslim pupils, an Arabic Munshi should be appointed.

At Alleppey, Quilon and other Muslim centres, primary education should be made compulsory as an experimental measure, so far as Muslims were concerned. In the interests of education of the people, the Government should not grudge the additional expenditure involved.

Every year, separate provision should be made in the budget for the promotion of Muslim education and that should be utilised for awarding grants-in-aid to Muslim schools.

The number of special scholarships in Middle Schools should be increased from 8 to 12 and the number of such scholarships in High School classes from 5 to 8. Special foreign scholarships should also be instituted for encouraging Muslims in higher education.

Female education among Muslims was in a deplorable condition. Some of the Muslim leaders were even of the view that educating the females was against their religion. To bring about a change in their mentality was no easy matter. More departmental girls' schools for Mahomedans should therefore be opened in several centres and *Koran* should be compulsorily taught there. The rule that local inhabitants should surrender sites and put up buildings for such schools should not be insisted on in such cases.

Rumours had been afloat that the Special School for Mahomedans at Alleppey was to be abolished because of the paucity of students and in view of the fact that no student had passed from that school in the previous School Final Examination. The member said that it was only two years since the school was raised to a High School, that there were already 129 students there, of whom 20 were in Form VI and that, in the initial stages of a special school, more students could not be expected. As regards the poor examination results, they were brought about by the absence on leave of two chief teachers for a major part of the school-year.

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